

Austin, T e x a s

April 27th, 1943

TO THE FORTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE:

I am returning to the House of Representatives House Bill No. 682 which I am unable to approve. My objections to the Bill arise from a belief that it is unconstitutional.

Section 56 of Article 3 prohibits the Legislature from passing local or special laws regulating the affairs of school districts. House Bill No. 682 attempts to authorize the levying of a total tax of \$1.50 for school purposes, being a tax for both bonds and maintenance. The Bill applies to the Flower Grove Independent School District of Martin County.

Your attention is directed to Art. 2802i-18, Vernon's Civil Statutes. (Acts 1941, 47th Legislature, page 804, ch. 409). This is a general law and appears to authorize any common or independent school district in the State to levy a bond tax not to exceed \$1.00 on the \$100.00 valuation and a maintenance tax not to exceed 50¢ on the \$100.00 valuation, when such tax has been authorized by a majority of the votes cast at an election held in the district for such purposes. The Act purports to apply to all school districts which are unable to meet bond payments on bonds issued prior to the passage of the Act in 1941. If the Flower Grove District is unable to pay its outstanding bonds as the emergency clause in House Bill No. 682 indicates, then it appears that it may come within the terms of the general law, Art. 2802i-18, and thereby obtain the necessary relief.

Respectfully submitted


Coke Stevenson

Governor of Texas

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